

## Advisory October 24, 2006

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## Vista del Lago to Reopen After Long Shutdown

SACRAMENTO -- After a 19-month closure because of rain-caused landslides, DWR's popular Vista del Lago Visitors Center is scheduled to reopen at Lake Pyramid November 1.

Two slides in early March, 2005 parted power lines and fractured water service pipelines. Reopening the facility was placed on hold until foundation safety studies could be completed to confirm that the building was structurally safe. In the meantime, water cascading off the quarter-acre building roof eroded the steep hillside below the Center.

A bulldozer terraced the hillside and stabilized the area, reducing the safety hazard for workers who will be restoring grass and shrubbery, installing drain lines, and making long-term erosion repairs.

Wall cracks have been repaired inside the Visitors Center and the interior repainted. Improvements were also made to the water treatment facility, and the parking lot was slurry-sealed.

The 18,500 square foot Mediterranean-style structure 60 miles north of downtown Los Angeles is the largest of DWR's three water information centers. It contains interactive exhibits that tell the story of the State Water Project, detail California's water sources, and explain the vital role water plays in the Golden State's quality of life.

Normally open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, VDL hosts about 150,000 visitors per year.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water

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